ing their attention to the reclamation of this backwater as the sole available means of subsistence left for them. Before 1903, more than 50,000 parahs of land had been so reclaimed. He thought that the conversion of the southern corner of the backwater into wet land would in no way prejudicially affect the Cochin harbour situated at its northern extremity and, even if on enquiry it turned out that it did really affect that harbour, arrangements could be made to remove the accumulation of silt every year by means of dredgers and the cost thereof recovered from the ryots concerned. He prayed that this aspect of the question might receive the kind attention of the authorities concerned and all possible relief afforded to the suffering ryots of North Travancore as early as practicable.

Reply.—The matter will receive the serious and sympathetic consideration of Government.

60. Reduction of interest on agricultural loans to 3 per cent.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer and Mr. Sattanathan Karayalan (Shencottah) observed that the interest charged on agricultural loans by Government was 4 per cent. at present and it would be desirable to reduce it to 3 per cent.

Reply.—This will receive consideration.

61. Establishment of an Agricultural Board.

Mr. K. S. Shanmukham Pillai (Agricultural Improvement Association, South Travancore) prayed for the establishment of an agricultural board for the benefit of the ryots.

Reply.—This will be considered.

62. Desirability of holding Agricultural Exhibitions in all the Divisions.

Mr. S. Krishna Pillai (Tiruvalla) requested the attention of Government to this subject.

Reply.—This has been already sanctioned. Agricultural exhibitions will be held in all the Divisions.

63. Opening of Agricultural Demonstration Farms.

Mr. Padmanabha Pillai (Eraniel) suggested that a model agricultural farm might be attached to the Eraniel School.

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